

Clean Copy of Amended Claims

Sub
H1
E 1 (four times amended). A mouse comprising a genome comprising a) exactly one functional elastin gene and b) either one mouse elastin gene comprising a null mutation or no second elastin gene, wherein said mouse has an increased number of elastic lamellae and arterial occlusion.

Sub
G1
E 2 (amended). A mouse comprising a genome with no functional elastin gene, wherein said mouse has an increased number of elastic lamellae and arterial occlusion.

Sub
H1
E 2 5 (three times amended). A method to screen for drug candidates useful for treating humans with SVAS, hypertension or atherosclerosis or useful for preventing atherosclerosis in humans, said method comprising administering said drugs to an *ELN* +/- mouse or human, wherein said *ELN* +/- mouse or human comprises a genome with a) exactly one functional elastin gene and b) either one elastin gene comprising a null mutation or no second elastin gene, wherein said mouse has an increased number of elastic lamellae and arterial occlusion, wherein drugs which inhibit occlusion of arteries in said organism are said drug candidates.

6 (twice amended). A method to screen for drug candidates which may be useful for (i) treating humans with atherosclerosis, SVAS or essential hypertension or (ii) preventing the occurrence of atherosclerosis in humans said method comprising measuring activity of purified elastase in the presence and absence of a drug and comparing the elastase activity in the presence and absence of said drug, wherein a drug which inhibit elastase is a drug candidate which may be useful for (i) treating humans with atherosclerosis, SVAS or essential hypertension or (ii) preventing the occurrence of atherosclerosis in humans.

Sub
H1
E 3 9 (three times amended). A method to screen for a drug candidate useful for treating atherosclerosis, hypertension or SVAS in a human, said method comprising treating an *ELN* +/- mouse or human or *ELN* +/- mouse or human cells, wherein said *ELN* +/- mouse or human or mouse

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or human cells comprise a genome with a) exactly one functional elastin gene and b) either one elastin gene comprising a null mutation or no second elastin gene, wherein said mouse has an increased number of elastic lamellae and arterial occlusion, with drugs and measuring synthesis of elastin RNA wherein a drug which increases synthesis of elastin RNA in said organisms or in said cells is said drug candidate.

E-3
10 (twice amended). A method to screen for a drug candidate useful for treating atherosclerosis, hypertension or SVAS in a human, said method comprising treating *ELN* +/- mice or *ELN* +/- mouse cells, wherein said *ELN* +/- mice or mouse cells comprise a genome with a) exactly one functional elastin gene and b) either one elastin gene comprising a null mutation or no second elastin gene, wherein said mouse has an increased number of elastic lamellae and arterial occlusion, with drugs and measuring synthesis of elastin wherein a drug which increases synthesis of elastin is said drug candidate.
